

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending when last examined. With this Response, Applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended claims 2, 7, 9, and 18, and added new claim 21. All pending claims are shown in the detailed listing above.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Memida (USPN 6,137,360).

Applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot the rejection of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 10-16.

The Examiner objected to Claims 2-9 and 18-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten Claims 2, 7, 9, and 18 in independent form, thereby placing these claims in condition for allowance. Claims 3-6, 8, 19, and 20 each depend from one of claims 2, 7, and 18, and thus should also be in condition for allowance.

New Claim

Applicants have added new claim 21. Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 21 is fully supported by the Application as filed, adds no new matter, and is allowable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-7428.

Certificate of Mailing

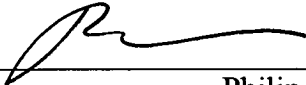
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

10/13/05 Richard A. Pasic

Date

Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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October 13, 2005

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